Recommendation made by the Ragte Committee

1948. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

' (a) What are the recommendations made by the Ragte Committee and what are the salient features thereof;

(b) What are the recommendations which have been accepted by Government; and

(c) What are the recommendations whoch have not so far been accepted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) This Ministry is not aware of the constitution of any Committee called Ragte Committee and of its recommendations, salient features, etc. The question of accepting it's recommendations or otherwise by Government, therefore, does not arise.

Withdrawing of Coal Projects

1849. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Misister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects withdrawn due to Geo-mmiag conditions;

(b) how much cost was involved in each of these projects;

(c) whether these projects were not prospected and explored using modern technology before finalisation of the project Reports;

(d) who is responsible for failure of these projects;

(e) whether any accountability has been fixed;

(f) it so, the details (hereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) During the 7th Five Year Plan period, 16 sanctioned underground coal projects were withdrawn/not taken up due to adverse geo-mining conditions. Total expenditure in curred on these projects was Rs. 5.83 Crs. Most of this expenditure was incurred on underground exploratory work for development.

(c) and (d) Geological prospecting in all these projects was carried out on traditional methods available at that point of time. Since there is always an element of uncertainty incheret in underground mining, the geo-mining conditions encountered in these mines could not have been predicted at the time of planning. As such, the responsibility cannot be fixed on one particular person or agency. Corrective measures are taken on the basis of earlier experience and improvements have been brought in planning as well as imple-mentation.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

Improvement in the quality of Coal

1850. SHRI PARMESHHAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that bulk of the coal produced through open cast mining is of very low quality;

(b) if so, the details and reasons thereof;

(c) whether it is possible to improve the quality of coal by adopting proper methods of mining by removing the band at the time of production of coal itself and

(d) the details of efforts made in this regard to improve the quality of coal by coal India Ltd ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) About 70% of the coal produced in Coal India group of companies is from opencast mines. The inherent quality of coal is not dependent on method of mining viz. Opencast or Underground. However, is underground mining the deterioration of quality of coal is minimal as compared to opencast raining where there are higher chances of